REASONS

Offered to the Conſideration of his Grace, His Majeſties high Commiſſioner, and the Hononrable Eſtates of Parliament, by ſeveral Salt-Maſters, againſt the Act for a Manufactorie of Salt upon Salt, given in by Mr. William Areskin *Governour of* Blackneſs Caſtle.

1. IF this Act in favours of Mr. *William Areskin* ſhall be paſt, it will make one Manufactrie deſtroy another which is of far greater Import and Advantage to the Nation, *viz.*

The Manufactorie of ſmall Salt, by which ſo many thouſands of People are maintained, and by the Exporting of which, ſo much Advantage redounds to the Countrey; For ſhould it be paſt in his favours, under the Notion of making Salt upon Salt, he would import ſo much Foraign Salt, as ſhould not only ſerve for Curing of Fiſhes, but all other Domeſtick Uſes, and being free of Duty, will be able to ſell it at a lower Rate than the Salt-matters can make their Salt at.

2. If the Advantage of the Countrey be conſulted, it cannot be paſt in his favours and Partners only, for then the Buyers are confined to Buy as it were from one hand, and ſo muſt pay what Price they ſhall pleaſe to impoſe upon it, and thus it becomes a Monopoly, whereas if power be granted to every Salt-maſter to make Salt upon Salt, the Countrey ſhall be far better ſerved, and the Merchants if they cannot buy from one may go to another, as in the buying of ordinary Salt.

3. The Art of making Salt upon Salt is not ſo great as Mr. *William Areskin* repreſents it, ſince any perſons who have any Skill in *Alchymie* may do it, and it is ordinarly done in *Holland* by ſilly Women; the Expenſe of bringing ſome of theſe home, cannot be ſo very great as he would have it to be.

4. It is offered by ſeveral of the Salt-maſters, that each of them ſhall ſet up for themſelves, and have their Works in readineſs for accompliſhing the Deſign betwixt and the time condeſcended on in the Act.

5. Should this Act be granted in his favours, Coal-maſters might cloſe up their Pits, to the great loſs of the Countrey: for when ſmall Salt cannot be made with ſome Advantage, the ſmall Coals by which it is made muſt be left in the Coal-heugh, which in ſome places takes Fire, and in other places ſo Immures the Coal-heugh that they cannot work, and ſo in effect renders their Works altogether uſeleſs.

It is therefore humbly expected, that His Grace His Majeſties High Commiſſioner and the Honourable Eſtates of Parliament in reſpect of the above Reaſons, will not paſs the Act in Mr. *Areskines* Favours, but in Favours of ſuch of the Salt Maſters as are willing to ſet up for themſelves to make Salt upon Salt-